ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE

Provided are an apparatus and method for stably generating a tracking error signal in an optical recording/reading system irrespective of a disc track pitch. The apparatus includes a main beam push pull (MPP) signal generating unit which generates an MPP signal according to electrical signals output by main photodetecting units based on a calculated difference of beam powers detected by the main photodetecting units arranged on right and left sides of a specific track, respectively, a side beam push pull (SPP) signal generating unit which generates an SPP signal according to electrical signals output by photodetecting units based on a calculated difference of beam powers detected by the photodetecting units, the photdetecting units being one of pairs of the main photodetecting units diagonally arranged with respect to the track and side photodetecting units disposed on opposing sides of the track and outside of the main photdetecting units, a filter which removes AC components from the SPP signal; and a subtractor which generates a tracking error signal by calculating a difference between the MPP signal and the filtered SPP signal.